

2  
3  
4 **A RESOLUTION**

5  
6 Affirming Milwaukee County’s commitment to environmentally sustainable practices  
7 through the reduction or elimination of the use of single-use plastic or polystyrene foam  
8 products in County-owned and operated facilities and requesting the Director of  
9 Sustainability to draft contract language for approval by the Milwaukee County Board of  
10 Supervisors directing Milwaukee County vendors and contractors to reduce or eliminate  
11 the use of single-use plastic or polystyrene foam products in County facilities  
12

13  
14 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors created the Green  
15 Purchasing Taskforce in 2006 to encourage the use of environmentally preferable  
16 products, including those that reduce waste, save energy and are less toxic; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted File No. 07-  
19 111, on July 26, 2007, creating an environmental and conservation “Green Print”  
20 initiative for Milwaukee County in response to the recommendations of the Green  
21 Purchasing Taskforce; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, the Green Print initiative instructs the Director of Sustainability to  
24 oversee current and future energy efficiency and eco-friendly initiatives, including  
25 improvement of recycling efforts; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports that  
28 the average Wisconsin resident disposes of 1.9 pounds of recyclables every day; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, the Rochester Institute of Technology estimates that plastic debris  
31 makes up 80 percent of the litter on Great Lakes shorelines and that nearly 22 million  
32 pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes each year, with more than half of that amount  
33 entering Lake Michigan; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, polystyrene foam, used in food and beverage packaging, is not  
36 biodegradable and difficult to recycle and, because of this, the Wisconsin DNR allows it  
37 to be landfilled or incinerated; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, rules and guidelines governing which items can and cannot be  
40 recycled are often confusing and, frequently, items that may appear to be recyclable are  
41 not, including plastic wrap, labels, clamshell packaging, and very small plastic items as  
42 these are difficult to process at recycling facilities; and  
43

44 WHEREAS, single-use plastic and polystyrene foam are more frequently used in  
45 the provision of food products, including food containers, straws, utensils, and  
46 packaging; and

47 WHEREAS, alternatives to single-use plastic and polystyrene foam are much  
48 more widely accessible and available as we learn more about the harm that single-use  
49 products have on the environment; and

50  
51 WHEREAS, municipalities across the United States have started to assess their  
52 single-use product policies in an effort to reduce or eliminate their use and promote  
53 products that are reusable, biodegradable, or compostable; and

54  
55 WHEREAS, Plastic-Free MKE is a local coalition made up of private, public, and  
56 non-profit entities, including the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Riverkeeper, and the  
57 Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), encouraging the elimination of  
58 single-use plastics throughout the community; and

59  
60 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to the reduction or elimination of  
61 single-use products in County-owned and operated facilities; and

62  
63 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County also holds many contracts with vendors for food,  
64 beverage, recreation, and other services throughout the County; and

65  
66 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County wants to improve upon its efforts to reduce or  
67 eliminate single-use plastics and encourage its vendors to adhere to a similar  
68 commitment for services provided in County facilities; now, therefore,

69  
70 BE IT RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County reaffirms its commitment to  
71 environmental sustainability and recycling efforts throughout the County; and

72  
73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the policy of Milwaukee County to reduce  
74 or eliminate single-use plastic products and polystyrene foam distributed by entities on  
75 property owned, operated or supported by Milwaukee County; and

76  
77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and  
78 Culture is requested to reduce its provision of single-use plastics and polystyrene foam  
79 in 2020, with a goal of reaching 50 percent reduction upon final adoption of this  
80 resolution; and

81  
82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and  
83 Culture shall have a goal of 100 percent elimination of the provision of single-use plastic  
84 and polystyrene foam in 2021; and

85  
86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2021 Recommended Budget for the  
87 Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture shall reflect the budgetary impact of  
88 switching to non-plastic and polystyrene foam commodities; and

89  
90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Sustainability, working in  
91 conjunction with the Office of Corporation Counsel, is requested to draft language that

92 could be added to future contracts with applicable vendors on the County's policy  
93 related to single-use plastic and polystyrene foam; and

94

95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Sustainability is requested to  
96 communicate this policy and the future potential contract language to County  
97 administrators that oversee agreements to encourage vendors to begin complying with  
98 the policy in advance of contract renewals; and

99

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Sustainability is requested to  
101 notify all County contract holders of the contents of this resolution and, in the case of  
102 long-term leases, the potential for contract language to be added upon renewal; and

103

104 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Milwaukee County department shall  
105 provide an update to the Committee on Finance and Audit detailing single-use plastic  
106 and polystyrene foam reduction efforts during the budget review process in October  
107 2020; and

108

109 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
110 encourages the Milwaukee County Executive to promote the reduction of single-use  
111 plastic and polystyrene foam in all Milwaukee County departments, include appropriate  
112 language in all applicable contracts not subject to County Board approval, and with all  
113 entities receiving financial support from Milwaukee County; and

114

115 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County, through the Office of  
116 Sustainability, will join the Plastic-Free MKE coalition to promote and encourage the  
117 elimination of single-use plastics in Milwaukee.